Modernisation of Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited

1177. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided not to proceed with the modernisation scheme prepared by consortium of Japanese firms for Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited at Burnpur and Kulti and asked M/s. M. N. Dastur and Company for a second professional advice in the matter; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether the modernisation programme will be delayed as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW & JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Modernisation of Burnpur Works of IISCO stands approved in principle by the Government. Based on the report submitted by the Japanese Consulting Companies, SAIL have approached Government for an investment decision on the modernisation of IISCO. Keeping in view the high estimated cost of the project, Government have sought a second professional opinion from M/s. M. N. Dastur & Co. on the approach to the modernisation investment. The report is likely to be received from the Consultant by the end of March, 1990. Keeping all the relevant factors in view, including the Japanese proposal, a most cost effective investment decision with optimum utilisation of indigenous capabilities will be taken thereafter.

(b) The implications on the time frame would be known after finalisation of the strategy for implementation of the project. The Government will however take expeditious decision in the matter.

Number of Bank branches in the country

1178. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of branches of banks in the country at the end of February, 1990 and the number of people served by each branch on an average;

(b) whether Government propose to continue the policy of opening new branches in the rural and semi-urban areas; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) As on 31-12-1989 (latest available figures), 58,417 branches of various banks were functioning in the country. The average population per bank office for the country was 12,000.

(b) and (c) The current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985—90, co-terminus with Seventh Five Year Plan, will come to an end on 31st of March, 1990. The new Branch Licensing Policy is at present being finalised by the Reserve Bank of India.

विदेशों में स्थित दूतावासों/कार्यालयों के व्यय की लेखा परीक्षा

1179. **श्रीमती सत्या बहिन :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि भारत और विदेशों में स्थित कार्यालयों के व्यय की लेखा परीक्षा कराने मे समान स्तर के अधिकारी/कर्मचारी लगे हुए हैं ; यदि हां, तो ऐसे कर्मचारियों को अलग-अलग कितना दैनिक भत्ता प्रदान किया जाता है ; और

(ख) क्या विदेशों में स्थित दूतावासों और कार्यालयों के व्यय की लेखा परीक्षा नई दिल्ली से ही कराया जाना सम्भव नहीं है ?

वित्त मंत्री (प्रो० मधु दंडवते) : (क) जी, हां ! भारत मे तथा विदेशों में लेखा-परीक्षा कार्य में लगे भारतीय लेखा-परीक्षा और लेखा विभाग के अधिकारी और कर्मचारी वही दैनिक भत्ता लेने के पात्र हैं जो अन्य केंद्रीय सरकार के कर्मचारियों को स्वीकार्य है । दैनिक भत्ता, अधिकारी द्वारा लिए जा रहे वेतन तथा उसके प्रतिनियुक्त स्थान पर निर्भर करते हुए, विभिन्न दरों पर दिया जाता है ।

(ख) राजदूतावासों तथा विदेशों में कार्यालयों के व्यय की नई दिल्ली से ही पूरी लेखा परीक्षा करना व्यवहार्य नहीं है।

Country's Policy towards foreign investments

1180. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering proposals to create more attractive environment by defining their policy towards foreign investment in India, in view of the recent happenings in Europe and South Asian countries;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps are being taken to identify the areas where the country needs foreign investment in order to improve economic development, particularly exports?

THE FINANCE MINISTER (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) to (c) The basic framework of our foreign investment policy is laid down in various documents including the Industrial Policy Resolution. Our approach is selective. In line with our priorities, the policy permits technical as well as financial collaborations over a wide range of industrial activities. The policy is well established and facilitates diirect foreign investment in desirable areas, particularly areas of high technology and exports.

Trade Pacts with foreign countries

1181. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have entered into certain trade pact with foreign countries recently; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND TOURISM (SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) The Governments of India and Bhutan signed an agreement on Trade and Commerce on 2nd March, 1990 for a period of five years to regulate the bilateral trade as well as to provide transit facilities to the land locked Kingdom of Bhutan for their third country trade through the territory of India. It provides for free trade and commerce between the two countries through specified routes . Under the new agreement, Government of India has agreed to provide same facilities to the private Sector in Bhutan which it had been providing to the foreign trade being carried out by the Royal Government of Bhutan so far.

(ii) India has buateral Trade and Payment Agreements with 5 (five) East European countries, namely, GDR, Poland, Romania, Czechoslovakia and USSR. The Agreement with each of these countries provides for India's trade with that country on the basis of payments in non-convertible Indian Rupees and on a balancing basis. Trade and Payment Agreement with each of these countries providing for the Rupee Payment Agreement is presently valid up to 31-12-1990.

(iii) In September 1989, the first meeting of India-China Joint Group on Trade and Economic Relations, Science and Technology was held during 18—20th September, 1989. The meeting concluded with the signing